

In the Claims

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions of Claims in the application.

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (original) A method for obtaining an indication of the intracranial pressure of a living body, comprising the steps of:

determining an initial position of an elastic biological object when the intracranial pressure within the living body is zero;

determining a subsequent position of the elastic biological object when the intracranial pressure within the living body is unknown but greater than zero;

applying an external pressure to the elastic biological object; and

identifying the unknown intracranial pressure of the living body as that external pressure which causes the subsequent position to be equal to the initial position.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the elastic biological object comprises a skull bone.

15. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the applying an external pressure step comprises the step of inflating an inflatable helmet.

16. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the applying an external pressure step comprises the step of actuating a piston and cylinder assembly mounted on a frame.

17. (original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the elastic biological object comprises a tympanic membrane of an ear.

18. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the applying an external pressure step comprises the step of flowing fluid through a tube adapted for insertion into an ear.

19. (previously presented) A method for obtaining a measurement of the absolute pressure inside a cranium, comprising the steps of:

determining a first position of a physiological object when the intracranial pressure is balanced with atmospheric pressure;

exposing the physiological object to intracranial pressure causing said physiological object to move to a second position;

applying a force against the physiological object until the position of the object is restored to its first position and storing a value of the force at which this occurs; and

converting the stored value to a measurement of the absolute pressure inside a cranium.

20. (original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the physiological object comprises a skull bone.

21. (original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the applying a force step comprises the step of inflating an inflatable helmet.

22. (original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the applying a force step comprises the step of actuating a piston and cylinder assembly mounted on a frame.

23. (original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the physiological object comprises a tympanic membrane of an ear.

24. (original) The device of Claim 23 wherein the applying a force step comprises the step of flowing fluid through a tube adapted for insertion into an ear.